REMARKS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 24, 2010. Claims 1 to 21 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 9 and 17 are in independent form. Claims 1, 9 and 17 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as the invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8 to 10, 13, 14 and 16 to 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 7,089,321 (*Hayashi*) (hereinafter "*Hayashi*") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0268407 (*Sparrel et al.*) (hereinafter "*Sparrell*") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2009/0222875 (*Chang et al.*) (hereinafter "*Chang*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,857,130 (*Srikantan et al.*) (hereinafter "*Srikantan*"). Claims 3 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Hayashi*, in view of *Sparrell*, in view of *Cheng*, in view of *Srikantan*, and in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2007/0199030 (*Ellis et al.*) (hereinafter "*Ellis*"). Claims 4 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Hayashi* in view of *Sparrell* in view of *Cheng* in view of *Srikantan* and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0221302 (*Ansari et al.*) (hereinafter "*Ansari*"). Claims 7 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Hayashi* in view of *Sparrell* in view of *Cheng* in view of *Srikantan* and further in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2006/0179462 (*Willame et al*) (hereinafter "*Willame*"). Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Hayashi* in view of *Sparrell* in view of *Cheng* in view of *Srikantan* and further in view of "*Automatic Windows 98/ME TCP/IP Addressing Without a DHCP Server*" (hereinafter "*APIPA*"). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for networking a plurality of clients in a personal video recording ("PVR") system. A plurality of television signals are received, and each of the television signals are tuned in one of a plurality of tuners. The television signals are buffered on a storage medium in at least one PVR media server. The buffered television signals are accessible from the storage medium based on a plurality of independent read taps. A plurality of clients are coupled over a network to the PVR media server. At least one request is received from each of at least two clients for at least one service in the PVR system. Resources of the PVR system are allocated to the clients, as appropriate, to deliver the at least one service to each of the clients. Resources of the PVR system comprise the plurality of tuners and the plurality of independent read taps. The different clients may share at least one service using the independent read taps.

One of at least three states is designated to a first tuner of the plurality of tuners based on allocation of the first tuner and usage of the plurality of clients. The at least three states comprise at least: a busy state, a maybe free state, and a totally free state. The designated state for the first tuner is stored in a memory prior to at least one scheduled event based on the allocating. A conflict is detected for the first tuner among the requesting clients. The conflict is resolved among the requesting clients based on the designated state of the first tuner stored in the memory, and the availability of the resources of the PVR system comprising the tuners and the plurality of independent read taps.

In a case where a new device is coupled to the network, the new device receives through the network, from the PVR media server, a network protocol and a content service supported by the PVR media server. The content service is for allowing the new device to access buffered television signals, buffered at the PVR media server, at respective buffer positions via

respective read taps. The new device comprises at least one of a PVR media server and a client

that access buffered television signals via read taps. At least one request is sent from the new

device to the PVR media server for the content service. The new device sends the request via the

network protocol. At least one tuner having one of a maybe free state and a totally free state is

allocated to the new device to deliver the content service to the new device. The state of the

allocated tuner is designated based on allocation of the tuner and usage of the plurality of clients.

   Hayashi is understood to relate to wirelessly transmitting and receiving data using

a server device connected wirelessly to a plurality of client devices constituting a wireless

network. S*ee Hayashi,* Abstract. *Sparrell* is understood to relate to a centralized resource

manager that manages resources available on a distributed network, such as network bandwidth,

CPU allocation TF tuners, MPED encoders and decoders, disk bandwidth, and input/output

devices. *See Sparrell*, Abstract. *Chang* is understood to relate to a distributed tuner system that

allows various television programs to be recorded using a record event, wherein each record

event requires a single tuner. *See* Chang, paragraph [0045]. *Srikantan* is seen to relate to

establishing separate file track handles for each client that a track of media program is being

streamed to. *See Srikantan*, column 6, lines 66 and 67.

   Applicants submit that a combination of *Hayashi, Sparrell, Chang* and *Srikantan*,

assuming such combination would even be permissible, would fail to teach or suggest a method

for networking a plurality of clients in a personal video recording ("PVR") system that includes

"in a case where a new device is coupled to the network: receiving at the new device, through the

network, from the PVR media server, a network protocol and a content service supported by the

PVR media server, the content service for allowing the new device to access buffered television

signals, buffered at the PVR media server, at respective buffer positions via respective read taps,

the new device comprising at least one of a PVR media server and a client that access buffered television signals via read taps, sending from the new device at least one request to the PVR media server for the content service, the new device sending the request via the network protocol, and allocating at least one tuner having one of a maybe free state and a totally free state to the new device to deliver the content service to the new device, the state of the allocated tuner being designated based on allocation of the tuner and usage of the plurality of clients", as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is patentable over *Hayashi*, *Sparrell*, *Chang* and *Srikantan*, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Independent Claims 9 and 17 include features sufficiently similar to those of Claim 1 that these claims are believed to be patentable over *Hayashi*, *Sparrell*, *Chang* and *Srikantan* for at least the reasons discussed above. The other rejected claims in the present application depend from one or another of independent Claims 1 and 9 and 17, and are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim also is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and an early passage to issue of the present application.

CONCLUSION

No petition to extend the time for responding to the Office Action is deemed necessary for this Amendment. If, however, such a petition is required to make this Amendment timely filed, then this paper should be considered such a petition and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite petition fee to Deposit Account 13-0762.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached by telephone at (408) 562-8435. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
ROVI CORPORATION

Dated:_August 24, 2010_   ___/Shant Tchakerian, #61,825___
                                     Shant H. Tchakerian
                                     Registration No. 61,825

                                     for

                                     Andy T. Pho
                                     Registration No. 48,862

Rovi Corporation
(formerly Macrovision Corporation)
2830 De La Cruz Boulevard
Santa Clara, CA 95050
Phone: (408) 562-8435
Fax: (408) 562-1800

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